

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 050146

72

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 SCCT-02 /098 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN-S/PRS:DHCLARE/WBROWN

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN LAPEZZULLO, ACTING

----- 084705

R 131712Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS STATE 050146

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PINT, GT

SUBJECT:CBS ON ELECTION AFTERMATH

1. TEXT OF CBS TV MORNING NEWS ITEM OF MARCH 12.

BEGIN TEXT:

GEORGE NATHANSON -- CBS TV -- GUATEMALA - GUATEMALA IS
MOVING CLOSER TO ABSOLUTE POLITICAL CHAOS. WITH EACH
PASSING DAY SINCE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD A
LITTLE MORE THAN A WEEK AGO MASS ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMON-
STRATIONS AND STREET RIOTING HAVE INCREASED IN INTENSITY.
ELECTORAL FRAUD IS THE ISSUE. THE MODERATE LEFT OF
CENTER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY CLAIMS THAT MASSIVE
FRAUD WAS USED TO JUGGLE THE VOTES GIVING THE ULTRA
CONSERVATIVE OFFICIAL CANDIDATE THE VICTORY.

THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAVE VOWED PEACEFUL RESISTANCE.
THEY THREATEN A WAVE OF STRIKES TO PARALYZE THE COUNTRY
IF THE VICTORY OF THEIR CANDIDATE IS NOT UPHELD. THE
GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HAS WARNED THAT STERN MEASURES
WOULD BE TAKEN TO HALT THE DEMONSTRATIONS. IT WILL
TOLERATE NO STRIKES. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 050146

THAT ANY RESISTANCE, NO MATTER HOW PEACEFUL, IS VIOLENT,

AND THAT VIOLENCE WILL BE MET WITH VIOLENCE.

TRUE TO ITS WORD THE GOVERNMENT HAS SENT ITS SPECIAL RIOT POLICE INTO ACTION -- GIRLS STAGING A SITDOWN DEMONSTRATION WERE FORCIBLY ARRESTED, OTHER DEMONSTRATORS WERE STRUCK DOWN BEFORE ARREST. TEAR GAS IS A FAVORITE WEAPON OF THE POLICE, USED IN LARGE QUANTITIES. THE LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS COVERING EVENTS HERE HAVE BECOME A TARGET FOR THE POLICE. TEAR GAS CANNISTERS ARE THROWN FROM POLICE CARS. THE NUMBER OF ARRESTED IS SAID TO EXCEED A HUNDRED OVER THE PAST WEEK. THREE STUDENTS ARE CONFIRMED DEAD. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF MORE.

MILITARY OFFICERS AND DIPLOMATS HERE TEND TO CONFIRM PRIVATELY THE POPULAR IMPRESSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT RESORTED TO FRAUD TO SECURE THE VICTORY OF GENERAL LAUGERUD, FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND PROTEGE OF THE PRESENT PRESIDENT ARANA. A HIGH WALL PROTECTS GENERAL LAUGERUD'S HOUSE, BODYGUARDS PROTECT THE GENERAL.

THE GUATEMALAN ARMY, NERVOUS ABOUT HAVING ITS PICTURE TAKEN, COULD BE A DECISIVE FACTOR IN THE ELECTORAL DISPUTE. REPORTS ARE CIRCULATING HERE THAT THE ARMED FORCES COULD PULL OFF ITS OWN COUP, THEN NAME ITS OWN PRESIDENT, NOT NECESSARILY LAUGERUD.

GUATEMALA IS A VIOLENT NATION. A US AMBASSADOR WAS KILLED HERE AS WELL AS A WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR. POLITICAL VIOLENCE HAS TAKEN AN ESTIMATED 5000 LIVES IN LESS THAN TEN YEARS. THE FEAR IS EXPRESSED HERE THAT THE CURRENT DISPUTE WILL SOON DEVELOP INTO RAGING TERRORISM AND GUERRILLA WARFARE.

KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ELECTION RESULTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, TELEVISION STATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, ELECTION FRAUD, SECURITY CONTROL, ELECTION CANDIDATES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE050146
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/PRS:DHCLARE/WBROWN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740346/aaaabrep.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BS ON ELECTION AFTERMATH
TAGS: PINT, PINS, GT, CBS, (NATHANSON, GEORGE)
To: GUATEMALA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005